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## EAR

A squirrel cracks walnuts on the roof,  
crickets sing in the swamp,  
zinnias in a blue vase sigh.  
I lie flat, chin on my chest,  
hands forgotten, feet under a blanket,  
no phone calls, no doorbells, no TV,  
no jewelry knocking against my body,  
no squeaky clothes,  
no one to call me daughter,  
sister,  
mother,  
or wife.

Call me baby,  
soft flower,  
or ear.

Let me hear  
the silence  
that says what I want to say.

Let me rise from a civil grave  
and speak one true word to my children  
in this deafening age.

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